United Nations A/55/681/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 June 2001

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 138 (b)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 138 (b) appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/55/681.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item during the first part of its resumed session at its 48th meeting, on 19 March 2001 and during the second part of its resumed session at its 58th, 59th 65th and 67th meetings, on 7, 8, 22 and 25 May 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/55/SR.48, 58, 59, 65 and 67).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (A/55/757);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/55/482/Add.1);

(c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/55/874 and A/55/885).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.77

4. At the 65th meeting, on 22 May, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/55/L.77), which he orally revised by replacing the words "the scheme set out in" in operative paragraphs 22 and 24 by the words "paragraph 20".

5. At the 67th meeting, on 25 May, the Chairman informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations, which had been coordinated by the representative of Croatia and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, with a view to presenting a draft resolution to the Committee.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the observer for Palestine (on behalf of the Arab Group).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States requested that a recorded vote in one block be taken on the fourth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 15 of draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.77.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 15 of draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.77, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 69 to 2, with 40 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

9. Also at the 67th meeting, the representative of the United States requested that a recorded vote be taken on draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.77 as a whole, as orally revised.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.77 as a whole, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 113 to 2 (see para. 12). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Japan, Australia (on behalf also of Canada and New Zealand), Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia Cyprus, Malta and Turkey), Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel (see A/C.5/55/SR.67).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1337 (2001) of 30 January 2001,

Recalling its resolutions S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 55/180 of 19 December 2000,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000 and 55/180,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon have been used to meet expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, in particular those paragraphs regarding the peacekeeping budgetary cycles, which should be adhered to in the future budgetary process, where possible;

2. *Expresses its deep concern* that Israel did not comply with its resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267 and 55/180;

3. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by its resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267 and 55/180;

4. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2001, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 124.5 million United States dollars, representing 3.9 per cent of the total

[1] A/55/482/Add.1 and A/55/757.
[2] A/55/874 and A/55/885. See also A/C.5/55/SR.48.

assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 31 January 2001, notes that some 20 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

6. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

8. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

9. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

10. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

12. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure full implementation;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of its resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of its resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of its resolution 54/267 and paragraph 14 of its resolution 55/180, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,284,633 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the Assembly at the main part of its fifty-sixth session;

[3] A/55/874, para. 10 (a) and A/55/885. See also A/C.5/55/SR.48.

16. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation provided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 54/267 and 55/180 from the amount of 233,592,094 dollars gross (228,191,141 dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 6,967,059 dollars gross (5,895,590 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 1,089,216 dollars gross (969,161 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base for the maintenance and expansion of the Force for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, to the amount of 207,154,194 dollars gross (201,981,841 dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 6,967,059 dollars gross (5,895,590 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 1,089,216 dollars gross (969,161 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Decides also* to reduce the apportionment provided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 54/267 and 55/180 for the period from 1 February to 30 June 2001 from the amount of 97,330,038 dollars gross (95,079,645 dollars net) to the amount of 70,892,138 dollars gross (68,870,345 dollars net), taking into account the amount of 194,660,080 dollars gross (190,159,283 dollars net) already apportioned for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 April 2001;

18. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated reduced staff assessment income of 2,021,793 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 February to 30 June 2001;

19. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of 99,548,960 dollars gross (97,558,500 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001, and decides to appropriate the amount of 6,021,721 dollars gross (5,284,652 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 629,045 dollars gross (564,879 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base, representing the prorated share of the Force in the support account for peacekeeping operations and United Nations Logistics Base requirements for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;

20. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 16,591,493 dollars gross (16,259,750 dollars net) for the period from 1 to 31 July 2001 in accordance with the levels set out in its resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/236 of 23 December 2000, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2001, as set out in its resolution 55/5 B of 23 December 2000;

21. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 331,743 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 to 31 July 2001;

22. *Decides further* to apportion among Member States the amount of 82,957,467 dollars gross (81,298,750 dollars net) for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2001, at a monthly rate of 16,591,493 dollars gross (16,259,750 dollars net) in accordance with paragraph 20 above, and taking into account the

scale of assessments for the year 2001, as set out in its resolution 55/5 B, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 July 2001;

23. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 22 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,658,717 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2001;

24. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 6,021,721 dollars gross (5,284,652 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 629,045 dollars gross (564,879 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 in accordance with paragraph 20 above, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 2001 and 2002, as set out in its resolution 55/5 B, the scale of assessments for the year 2001 to be applied against a portion thereof, that is, 3,010,861 dollars gross (2,642,326 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 314,523 dollars gross (282,440 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001, and the scale of assessments for the year 2002 to be applied against the balance, that is, 3,010,860 dollars gross (2,642,326 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 314,522 dollars gross (282,439 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2002;

25. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 24 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 737,069 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 64,166 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base approved for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, 368,535 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 32,083 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base being amounts pertaining to the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001 and the balance, that is, 368,534 dollars, for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 32,083 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base pertaining to the period from 1 January to 30 June 2002;

26. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share of the remaining balance of 186,252 dollars in the reserve account for third-party liability insurance of helicopters for the Force, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in subsequent relevant resolutions and decisions, for the ad hoc apportionment of peacekeeping appropriations, the latest of which were resolution 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and decisions 54/456 to 54/458 of 23 December 1999 for the period 1998-2000 and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 and 54/237 A of 23 December 1999;

27. *Decides also* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, their share of the remaining balance of 186,252 dollars in the reserve account for third-party liability insurance of helicopters for the

Force shall be set off against their outstanding obligations in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 26 above;

28. *Takes note* of additional requirements in the amount of 571,000 dollars gross (1,270,800 dollars net) for the operation of the Force for the period ending 30 June 2000, and authorizes the Secretary-General to utilize credits in an equal amount arising from the cancellation of obligations pertaining to the same period to meet the additional requirements;

29. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

30. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Force;

31. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".